

## IPARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

1.11.2020

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue, Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex. BN12 4UE

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

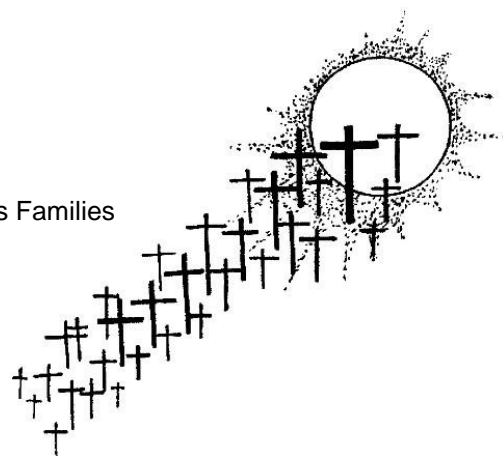
Email: [emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk](mailto:emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk) Website: [www.english-martyrs.co.uk](http://www.english-martyrs.co.uk)

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No: 25287

### All Saints

Saturday	31 <sup>st</sup>	6.00 pm	Deceased Relatives of Gina Marshall
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Colette Devlin RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am	Deceased Relatives of the Bandy & Phillips Families
		7.30 pm	Holy Souls
Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	Albert Davitt RIP and Family
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Toni Judd RIP
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Friday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Ann McClusky
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Michael Murphy RIP
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Colette Devlin RIP



**SATURDAY:** Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am & 5.15 - 5.45 pm

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13; Matthew 23:1-12

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £268    **World Mission Sunday (MISSIO):** £263    Thank you for your generosity.

Next Sunday there will be a **Second Collection for The Retired Priests' Fund** which may be Gift Aided and left in the West porch as you leave.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Liz Harvey, Mick Brouder, John Smith, Father Chris Ingle, Eileen Beech, Ian Threlfall, Thomas Duggan, Len Argent, Sister Catherine Lai, Maithé Bennett, Justin Gould, Rose Little, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Anne Steere, Anthony Canneaux, Lawrence Brownlee, Margaret Birch, Lita Yong, Patrick Ryan, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gina Palermo, Elizabeth Hoskins, Joan Cutmore, Christine Watson, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Jenny Begley, Bill Hogg, Breda Schlimgen, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

**2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Mary Furman, Harold Thirkettle, Olive Oliver, Vincent Rasdale, Brian Hurst, Reginald Patten, Elizabeth Holding, Benjamin Dixon-Smith, Margaret Hanson, Leslie Lee. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

**3. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021:** Is your son or daughter in Year 3 this term? If so, they are at the age where they can start the preparation course for First Holy Communion. Please email the Parish Office so that a letter and application form can be emailed back to you. Please return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible. The Parents Meeting will be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 8.00 pm, Lessons commence on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30 pm in The Barn and First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021.

**4. NOVEMBER – IS THE MONTH FOR HOLY SOULS:** The usual 'November envelopes' are available in both porches for those wishing to remember their loved ones at the Altar. Any donations will go towards offering Masses for the Holy Souls. Please fill in and leave on the table in the West Porch as soon as possible

**5. CONFIRMATION 2020/21:** If you are in Year 10 or above and considering being Confirmed next year you are invited to join our preparation programme that will be starting in January. Please email the Parish Office so that an application form can be emailed back to you. Please return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible

**6. GODLY PLAY** is a creative and engaging way of praying with children, young people and even adults! Telling stories helps us explore God's story, Bible stories, our own story, and where we fit in to it all. Are you involved with, or interested in Godly Play? Join members of the Diocesan Formation Team on Zoom, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 10.30am. Please contact [rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk) for booking information.

**7. THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE** has been updated and the new address is: [www.abdiocese.org.uk](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk)

**8. MARY'S MEALS:** We are now in particular need of Serviceable Towels, Toothpaste and Flannels Many thanks

**9. TURNING TIDES (WCHP) HARVEST APPEAL** during which items are requested that can be stored and used as needed throughout the year. Please could you donate: Boxer Shorts, Men's Socks, Dish Cloths, Dishwasher Salt, Dishwasher Tablets, Dishwasher Rinse Aid, Shampoo and Conditioner, Tinned Fruit and Veg, Pickles or chutney, Shaving Foam or Gel, Washing Powder, Razors, Herbs, Liquid Soap. Tinned Meat, Rice Pudding and Custard. There is a blue box in the West Porch for your donations. Many thanks in advance

**FATHER LIAM SAYS:** The Crimean War, which began in 1854, was the first time a special correspondent accompanied the army into battle. Britain had not fought a major war since Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo nearly 40 years before and medical arrangements proved to be woefully inadequate. Russell, a journalist from The Times, awakened public awareness to the dreadful conditions at the Front. He compared British nursing unfavourably with how the Sisters of Charity were caring for French troops. An anonymous letter to The Times in October 1854 asked: 'Why have we no Sisters of Charity?'

On the evening of the day that letter to The Times was published Bishop Grant, Bishop of Southwark, called to the Convent of the Sisters of Charity in Bermondsey. The Restoration of the Hierarchy was still a recent event and Catholics were often treated with distrust. Bishop Grant saw this as a public relations opportunity. The sister in charge was Mother Clare Moore and she was among those who immediately offered to go. The Bishop did not want to deprive the community of its Superior and he was still uncertain whether Religious would be accepted as volunteers. Within a few days Mother Clare was asked by the Bishop to be ready the next day to leave with four sisters. The Government was organising an official expedition of nurses and Florence Nightingale would be appointed to lead it. Bishop Grant wanted Catholics to be seen as first to respond in the nation's hour of need. Bishop Grant came that evening to bid a personal farewell to the Sisters. He advised them to take ordinary clothes in case they were not allowed to wear the habit. Mother Clare asked if he had any words of advice for them. Weeping re replied: 'Nothing. Do the best you can.' The parish priest purchased outdoor wear and a travelling bag for each sister. New habits were not sent out to them until the following Spring. The heir to the Duke of Norfolk also helped with expenses.

The five set out for London Bridge after Mass and breakfast to catch the 8.10 train to Dover. Mother Clare was then 40 years old with a very weak chest. They travelled unescorted, still unsure whether they were going via Calais or Boulogne. They arrived in Paris at a late hour and secured hotel accommodation with difficulty. There they received instructions from Sidney Herbert, secretary of War, to await the arrival of the official nursing expedition under its Superintendent. After all the urgency of their departure they now had to wait a week. Since not as many volunteered as hoped, it had been decided to increase the number of Catholic Sisters in the expedition to ten. Bishop Grant approached the Norwood Sisters, an enclosed Order which ran an orphanage in Southwark. These and the rest of the party, including fourteen Anglican nuns and Florence Nightingale eventually arrived making an expedition totalling forty nurses from England.

It was not until Florence Nightingale called to their Paris hotel that the Sisters of Mercy had any notion about conditions of employment. Miss Nightingale presented them with an agreement already signed by Bishop Grant on their behalf, which placed them unreservedly under her direction. The Sisters were to take orders from the Lady Superintendent rather than from their own Superior. It stipulated that sisters should not introduce religious topics except with Catholic troops. About a third of the British Army was Irish and Catholic at the time. Some Catholics felt the Bishop Grant had been too anxious to appease anti-Catholic feeling when he signed away the rights of a Religious Superior. But Mother Clare's relations with the Lady Superintendent were always cordial and Florence Nightingale observed the courtesy of directing the Sisters through their Reverend Mother.

The forty set sail from Marseilles on 27<sup>th</sup> October. A mailbag hold improvised as the Sister's cabin with no window and little ventilation. They arrived, after severe storms, in Constantinople on the eve of the Battle of Inkerman on 4<sup>th</sup> November. They then went by boat across the Bosphorus to Scutari on the Asiatic coast. A barracks and a General Hospital had been put at the disposal of the British Army by the Turkish Government. The Barrack Hospital was a colossal square, stone building and it was very run down. Blocked sewers contaminated the rooms above and the walls were seeping with moisture. The floor was rotten and impossible to clean. There were no beds for the patients – just straw sacks on the floor. Boots served as pillows and greatcoats as blankets. Most patients suffered from fever and diarrhoea. Amputations without anaesthetic were performed in the wards on makeshift trestle tables in open sight of other patients. Survivors from the battlefields were sent to the base hospital at Scutari – a 400 mile journey across the Black Sea in crammed vessels awash with blood and dysentery. When finally admitted to hospital, doctors and dressers were too busy to offer post-operative care. Often the sick tended the sick.

Unbelievably, the Medical Authorities in Scutari were reluctant to accept the help of the 40 English nurses. Army doctors regarded them as an unwelcome intrusion. When they first arrived they were refused admission to the wards. They were cooped up in their wretched rooms for the best part of a week. There was no bed linen. Every window-pane was broken. They washed from the same basin and saved the water for their laundry. If soldiers had not shared their rations they would have gone very hungry in that first week. Tea consisted of a few leaves in warm water without milk.

The first casualties began arriving from the Battle of Inkerman on 9<sup>th</sup> November so Army doctors had no option but to enlist their help on the wards. The Annals of the Convent of Our Lady of Mercy speak of the terrible conditions endured by the Sisters. 'In the severest cold, when the snow lay deep on the ground they never had a fire; their food was so bad and so sparing that they were often faint from hunger... the want of water was a suffering greater than can be expressed. During the first weeks... they were parched with thirst... and they were unwilling to seek remedy or redress as the others did, feeling how important it was for them to give an example of patient endurance and conformity with prescribed regulations.'

*From an article by Sister Penny Roker in a book entitled 'English Catholic Heroines'*